the tanks do not get filled. Under these difficult circumstances, lands under any one channel from the Krishnaraja-Sagara may be reserved for the holders of wet lands under tanks in the *maidan* taluks.

Dewan.—The reasons are not clear. It will not be possible to consider this request till after the construction of high level channels.

SUBJECT No. 86.

A channel from Marikanave Reservoir.

Mr. Hutchaveere Gowda, Gubbi Taluk.

Mr. Hutchaveere Gowda.—It is a well-known fact that, owing to scanty rainfall year after year, there has been scarcity of water for irrigation and fodder in this part of the country. The Marikanave Reservoir is said to contain more water than is necessary for cultivation purposes. If a channel is excavated from Marikanave Reservoir and water led to the Sira tank, many of the tanks in this taluk would be fed by it and appreciable revenue would accrue to Government. The project may be investigated and sanctioned, if found feasible.

Dewan.—The Chief Engineer states that the levels do not permit the excavation of such a channel and that the proposal is not feasible. It has therefore to be dropped.

TECHNICAL.

(ELECTRICAL.)

(*No. 87.*)

SUBJECT No. 87.

Electrical charges.

Messrs. B. V. Krishnaiengar, S. K. Narasimhaiya, R. Gopalaswami Iyer, Bangalore City Municipality, and J. R. Isaac, Indian Christian Association, Bangalore.

Mr. S. K. Narasimhaiya.—The charges of electric current both for lighting and power, have been recently increased to a very considerable extent, causing a great hardship to the public. We waited on the Dewan Sahib to represent this hardship but were directed to go to the Second Member of Council. He promised us sympathetic consideration but nothing has been done in the matter. We request that suitable reduction may be made in either case.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer.—In regard to the same subject, a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce waited on the Dewan and it was directed to go to the Member in Charge of the Electrical portfolio and sympathetic consideration was promised to us. When a reminder was sent by the Chamber, we were informed that there was a change of portfolios and the Member in charge would consider and reply.

In other provinces of India, water power is the cheapest means of generating electricity and it is natural that, in Mysore, this should be so too. I have prepared a list of the minimum and maximum charges for power consumption in Bombay, Madras, Lahore, Calcutta, etc. If permitted, I shall send it up to Government.

First Member of Council.—You may give it to me. I shall see it and do what may be possible.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao.—At present, kerosene lights will be cheaper than electric lights. Sir K. Seshadri Iyer had promised that the charges would not exceed 2 or 2½ annas per unit. But it is raised now to a very much higher rate than that. And another inconvenience is that whether we use 4 points or less we must pay for 4 points and if, on special occasions, we consume extra power, we must pay extra charges. If we ask for a reserve on account of not consuming the minimum quantity, ordinarily we are not given the concession, and where is the justice in charging extra for extra consumption? And for the meter, we must pay eight annas every month for any number of years. Often, we will have paid much more than the cost of the meter. At least, if the cost of the meter is recovered from us at the outset, it would be something. It is a commercial department, and it is right that its ways and methods should also be commercial. But it is not so. Either they cannot manage well and give satisfaction to the people, or not knowing how to increase the revenue, they simply go on raising the charges. Whatever it may be, the rates must be lowered and there is no alternative. We do not know why there should be such revisions at all. Some say that, in order to meet the extra charge on account of increase of salaries, this was done; others say that to make up for the one lakh of rupees that were defalcated, rates have been enhanced. If the latter should be the reason, may we know how long, to make up the one lakh of rupees, the enhanced rates will be current? The power is consumed during the day time and is wasted at night, if not given for consumption by us. For this, why should there be any extra charges at all? And out of the minimum quantity, whatever is not consumed must be allowed to count as reserve to be utilised on special occasions. In fact, there ought not to be any minimum charge at all. For what we consume, we will pay and we also know the total consumption. Meter charges also must be lowered or its cost recovered from us once for all or in instalments. Power is generated in our country and the money that the raiyats pay maintains the department, and the use of lighting and power at cheap rates should not be denied to us. There are also other difficulties. If any small repair is to be executed, we must pay one rupee. If payment of bills is delayed by one day, we must pay a rupee extra. And we must take the money to the Electric Office alone; if we take, they take two or three days to attend to our work. If for each division there is a sub-office all this inconvenience will be obviated;

otherwise, a peon may be appointed to come to our houses and receive money from us. This sort of centralization must go if we must have any convenience.

Mr. S. K. Narasimhaiya.—Meter charge in Bangalore is about two rupees, but in Madras, it is only one rupee and in Lahore, only eight annas.

First Member of Council.—We shall consider about that and do the needful.

Mr. C. Narasimhaiya.—We wish to know the reasons for enhancing rates. And we also must know whether the income was more formerly or not, and whether the enhancement of rates has resulted in any increase in income. For, if there is more income, additional taxation is not justified. If, on the other hand, income has gone down, we would like to know the reasons for that also. We have serious doubts in these matters and wish to know full particulars.

First Member of Council.—I will give you these particulars.

Mr. Narasimhaiya.—We wish to have a statement giving all these particulars before the next Session and till this is furnished the enhanced rates should be kept in abeyance.

First Member of Council.—We shall consider these points. You will, of course, take into consideration the cost of the department, cost of machinery, etc. A reply will be given in due course.

TECHNICAL.

RAILWAYS.

(No. 88.)

SUBJECT No. 88.

Stoppage of Mail Trains at all stations between Mysore and Arsikere.

Mr. Lingegowda, Krishnarajpete Taluk.

Mr. Lingegowda.—The Mail Trains running between Mysore and Arsikere may be arranged to be stopped in all the intermediate stations till arrangements are made to run three trains daily, as great inconvenience is now being felt by the residents of the villages of these parts.

First and Second Members of Council.—Mail Trains cannot stop at all the intermediate stations. You had only one train originally and now you have extra service. We do not think there is any reason for complaint now.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

(Nos. 89 to 91.)

SUBJECT No. 89.

Extension of franchise to women.

Messrs. R. Gopalaswami Iyer, S. K. Narasimhaiya and B. V. Krishna Iyengar, Bangalore City Municipality.

Note.—By special premission, a few ladies were present at the Assembly to watch the discussion on this subject.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer.—It is a well recognised principle that the service of God consists in the service